

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 12403 160603Z
ACTION HUD-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 /020 W
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P R 160435Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 452
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS TEHRAN 12403

PLEASE PASS HUD-OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS-ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: USIRJC ECRE IR
SUBJ: HOUSING WORKING GROUP: JANUARY U.S. VISIT/SEMINAR

REF A. STATE 298738 B. TEHRAN 11786

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN TRYING REPEATEDLY TO GET FIRM
COMMITMENT FROM SIMONIAN ET AL. REGARDING JANUARY
TRIP.

2. DURING TELEPHONE CONVERSATION DECEMBER 15, KIAI
FINALLY SAID HE REGRETTED THAT NO ONE FROM THE
MINISTRY OR RELATED AGENCIES WOULD BE TRAVELING TO
WASHINGTON IN JANUARY 1977. HE CITED FISCAL STRINGENCIES
AND CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE COSTS IN GOVERNMENT AS REASON FOR
MINECONAFFAIRS/FINANCE DECLINING TO APPROVE TRIP.

3. COMMENT: YOUR RESPONSE TO TEHRAN 11786 WAS SOMEWHAT
OPTIMISTIC. AT NO TIME DID WE STATE PROBABILITY OF TRIP;
WE SIMPLY REPEATED INDIVIDUALS' DESIRE TO ATTEND AND
CONCOMITANT INFERENCE THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT
FOR SIMONIAN AND OTHERS TO GET APPROVAL.

4. WE SEE NO POINT IN PRESSING MINECON AFFAIRS
FURTHER AS THEY CLEARLY ARE DETERMINED TO PAY
MORE THAN LIP SERVICE TO ANTI-WASTAGE/COST
CUTTING CAMPAIGN ESPECIALLY IN HIGHLY VISIBLE
AREA OF VIP TRAVEL. ADDITIONALLY, HIGH LEVEL
OFFICIALS IN PERIOD BEGINNING NOVEMBER AR
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PROVIDING INPUT FOR 1977-78 BUDGET AND FOR INITIAL

PHASES OF SIXTH PLAN FORMULATION AND THEIR PRESENCE
IS REQUIRED.

6. THERE IS NO DOUBT IN OUR MIND THAT INDIVIDUALS'
WERE SINCERELY INTERESTED IN PURSUING WORKING GROUP
ACTIVITIES AS DISCUSSED EARLIER BUT HAVE HAD TO DEFER
PERSONAL WISHES TO GOVERNMENT POLICY.

7. RE SEMINAR, HEYDAYATI SAYS HE IS WAITING TO TALK
WITH MINHOUSING BEFORE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS AND MINISTRY
SAYS IT HAS REFERRD MATTER TO HIM. WE CONTINUE TO
PURSUE THIS FROM BOTH SIDES HOPING THEY WILL RESOLVE
IMPASSE SHORTLY.
HELMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HOUSING, SEMINARS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TEHRAN12403
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760462-0808
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761235/aaaabegn.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION HUD
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 298738
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HOUSING WORKING GROUP: JANUARY U.S. VISIT/SEMINAR
TAGS: ECRE, IR, USIRJC
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006